WORKS IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Chester on the works which have been going on for some time past in the cathedral, says the choir has been restored and rearranged; the ceiling, which had never been finished, has been groined; the old sittings have been replaced with substantial oak fittings, with solid bench ends; the unsightly galleries which disfigured the choir have all been swept away; the floors have been relaid, partly with black and white marble, and partly with slate and Hopton-wood stone. The door round the altar has also been laid with slate and Hopton stone, in the form of a Maltese cross. There has also been added an altar rail of oak; and a new stone screen (the gift of the Rev. W. P. Hamilton) has been placed between the altar and St. Mary's Chapel. The old communion table of oak still remains; although not in keeping with the other work, it is still a good example of the period of James; the paneling of the old pulpit has also been converted into framing to seat-fronts in St. Mary's Chapel. The bishop's throne, which was so mutilated that it was difficult to decide what it had been originally, has been restored at the expense of the Rev. Canon Slade.

The pulpit, the gift of Sir Edward S. Walker, of Chester, was designed by Mr. R. C. Hussey. It is in the decorated style, and stands, entirely detached, upon the north side of the choir. It stands about 22 feet high from the floor, and is octagonal in shape; the shaft which supports it is paneled, with tracery, and has buttresses at the angles, terminating with crocketed canopies. The body of the pulpit is also paneled; over the panels are canopies with crockets, behind which the spandrels are filled with diaper flowers, so managed as to give a variety of light and shade. A carved stone canopy, bracketing forward, surmounts the pulpit, and has a very good effect, with its rich arch mouldings and buttresses, terminating with crocketed pinnacles. The spire which terminates it is pierced and wrought into tracery, with crockets on the angles, and a finial so cut as to obtain very strong light and shade. The entrance is from the back; the ceiling is groined, the ribs and bosses gilt, contrasting with the Painswick stone of which it is built.

The masonry was executed by Mr. Haswell, of Chester; the carving by Mr. Henry Frith, of Birmingham. The restorations will proceed as funds become available.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE foundation stone of the district church of St. Mark, Wolverhampton, was laid on Tuesday week. It is to be built in the Early English style, with a tower and spire, and 1,200 sittings, one-half and more free. The architect is Mr. Orford, and the cost will be 4,600*l.*, besides 900*l.* for fence walls, architect's commission, lighting and warming, repair fund, &c.——The foundation stone of Christ Church, Yardly, Worcestershire, was laid on Friday week: Mr. Perkins, the architect. It is to be built of stone, in the Early English style, with nave and transept, and sittings for nearly 400.——A site for a Corn Exchange, in Angel-street, Worcester, has been purchased, and plans and estimates are in course of preparation, but a second scheme is in the field, and the *Worcester Journal* reminds the promoters of both schemes gently, of the risk of the one object falling to the ground between the "two stools."——The Portledge Reservoir, at Chew Magna, for the Bristol Water-works, is about to be begun, tenders for its formation having been called for. In a case of arbitration regarding the value of some portion of the property necessary, for which the proprietors demanded 4,000*l.*, the directors offered 850*l.*, and the arbiter gave 1,027*l.* 15s.—The Roman Catholic Chapel, in Meridian-place, Clifton,—an immense pile of building, whose unfinished and ruinous-looking state has for more than twelve years rendered it an eye-sore—is now likely to be completed after a fashion. The roofing-in is finished, and the workmen are glazing, &c. The state of the funds will not allow of the intended portico being added to the edifice at present, but the columns erected for it are not to be removed. The chief ornament of the building will be a stained window. On the site adjoining, a convent and school-house are to be erected,—the former as a residence for the Sisters of Penance, and the latter as an asylum for Roman Catholic orphans.——In St. John's Chapel, Bridgewater, the issue of some smoke lately, led to the timely discovery that the flue of the heating apparatus, recently erected, was on fire,—a timber wall-plate, inadvertently left unprotected, having been ignited.——A new parochial cemetery, of about 27 acres, is about to be laid out at Liverpool; and a chapel, &c., erected, from the designs of Mr. J. A. Picton.

GAS BURNERS.

To the Commissioners of Sewers for the City of London.

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me to express my thanks to the chairman and the other gentlemen who formed the deputation from your body, who favoured me with their company here on Saturday evening, to witness the experiments on my patents, for the sanitary and economic combustion of gas.

The gas used was that supplied to this district by the Chartered Gas Company, from their Westminster station, purified on these premises by my patent process, by means of which the sulphur and ammonia compounds are retained in the purifier, the consequences of which are, great advantage to the health of the consumer, the preservation of his property, and economy in the cost of the illumination.

The order in which the experiments were made on Saturday evening was as follows:—

The two experimental meters were first tested by causing all the gas for one burner to pass through both meters, and the registration of each meter thereby proved to be the same.

The photometers used were, Dr. Ritchie's and Dr. Lyon Playfair's, the latter varied by me from the original, but which alteration Dr. Lyon Playfair has authorised me to say he considers an improvement, rendering the instrument more accurately susceptible.

By desire of your deputation, the whole of the experiments were performed with *one quantity of gas per hour*, viz. four feet and two-tenths through each burner.

The distance from one burner to the other was 18 feet 10 inches. The first experiment then proceeded; and the photometers having been adjusted, the distances were measured off and found to be—

From the batswing to the photometer.....7 ft. 7 in.	From the photometer to Leslie's burner..11 ft. 3 in.
Squared in inches.. 6,781	Squared in inches.. 18,225

The second experiment was made by changing the burners, and then proving that the same quantity of gas, viz. 4 feet two-tenths per hour was being consumed by each burner, as in the first experiment: the photometer having been again adjusted, the distances were measured off, and found to be—

From the batswing to the photometer....8 ft. 10 in.	From the photometer to Leslie's burner..... 10 ft.
Squared in inches.. 11,236	Squared in inches .. 14,400

These facts demonstrate the following excess of light in my favour:—

First experiment	8281	18225	2·20
Second ditto	11236	14400	1·28
			2)3·48
			1·74

So that the mean of the two experiments gave my burner an advantage of 74 per cent. increase of light from the same quantity of gas *consumed under precisely the same circumstances* by the batswing.

The observations made by your surveyor, Mr. Hayward, and also by Deputy Hayward, during the experiments, were very important, and founded on them, I shall institute a series of experiments which I think will be productive of still further public advantage.

The sanitary advantages of my patents are, in my mind, of more importance than the pecuniary, but the latter is an important element. At the General Post-office for the quarter ending the 5th instant, the decrease over the corresponding quarter of last year (although my plans are not nearly in full operation yet), was 442·190 cubic feet, and additional offices lighted this year that were not in existence last year.

At the Thames Tunnel, where 97 of my burners are in use, the decrease of gas on the corresponding quarter of last year, that is, from the 25th of December to the 25th March, was 207,395 cubic feet. And the reports will inform you, that that magnificent work never was so well lighted as it is now, and the sanitary consequences of the improved combustion have rendered the atmosphere much more clear and healthy than in any period of its history. * * *

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, yours, &c.,
April 17th. JOHN LESLIE.

P.S. After I had written the preceding letter last evening, I found that the arrangements I had directed to be made were completed, and I commenced the series of experiments I have alluded to. My arrangements were as follows:—I had caused two large sheets of thick pasteboard to be bent into a semicircular form, blackened all over with lamp-black and glue; with these each burner was isolated from any influence, except the same blackened material. The two meters were then examined, to the most accurate registration. A batswing burner was then put on each meter, and each made to consume the same quantity of gas. The photometers were then adjusted, and the distances were measured off, and found to be 9 feet 5 inches, exactly the centre between the two lights. I believe this to be the most accurate standard that has yet been obtained. One batswing burner was then taken off, and replaced by my burner; the same quantity of gas was supplied to it, and careful attention paid, to be certain that each burner was consuming the same quantity of gas, the blackened material remaining as in the first experiment.

The photometers were adjusted, and the distances measured off, and found to be as follows:—

From the batswing to the photometer ..... 9 ft. 1 in.	From Leslie's burner to the photometer ..... 10 ft. 9 in.
Squared in inches. .9409	Squared in inches ... 16641

9409 : 16641 :: 1·76

So that you will observe a very close approximation to the mean of the two experiments which you witnessed on Saturday evening was obtained. This method giving my burner 76 per cent. increase of light from the same quantity of purified gas, and Saturday night's experiments 74 per cent.

Correspondence.

PAYMENT OF ARCHITECTS.

SIR,—I should be glad if yourself, or some of your numerous readers, would favour me with a reply to the following query:—

In the case of a building *not* erected by contract, but where, in addition to his customary duties, the architect will have to measure and value the works on their completion, is he entitled to any, and what, compensation, in addition to the ordinary charge of 5 per cent.?—I am, Sir, &c., INQUIRER.

Cheltenham, April 17, 1848.

Miscellanea.

IRON TRADE.—A further reduction of 1*l.* per ton, on greatly reduced nominal prices given out at previous quarterly meetings, was proposed at the recent reunion of the great masters; but from a *considerate* regard to 'the smaller makers,' on whom, it was alleged, that 'this would have a ruinous effect,' the proposal was in the meantime dropped. The demand for iron at any price, or of any sort, was still very flat, but the tone of the masters was not quite so desponding as heretofore. As for the tone of the prices now again nominally fixed, the key of that being usually rather too high pitched for us, as we have more than once had occasion to shew, it is not for THE BUILDER to reverberate a mere sound which signifies nothing but the desire of the greater masters for the higher prices. As for 'the smaller,' past experience teaches that the *quasi*-consideration of their greater brethren is thrown away upon them, seeing that a bitter complaint against them, by the advocates of high prices and of great masters, has in fact been, that they never can be induced to abide by the quarterly dictum, and are ever underselling the great nobs themselves, who now therefore, under pretence of reluctance to adopt ruinous measures, in reality threaten to fight them with their own competitive weapons if they do not give in their quarterly adhesion.

PAPER-COLOURING AND DESIGNING BY NITRATE OF SILVER.—The nitrate of silver and other salts has been suggested in the French Academy by M. Laroque, who intimates that he has discovered that nearly all salts are volatilised with aqueous vapour, or with any vapour arising from saline solutions, and that, in this way, he has coloured papers in designs reserved in white, especially with nitrate of silver thus volatilized: some of these M. Laroque submitted to the Academy.

NEW METROPOLITAN CHURCHES.—St. Matthew's, in the City-road, built from the design of Mr. Scott, and already described in our pages,* was consecrated on the 11th.—St. Jude's Church, Whitechapel, architect, Mr. Francis, which has been finished for a long time past, was consecrated last week.

* Vol. V. p. 86.

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